AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1 – 9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) A device for connecting previously intubed ends of a body duct and a prosthesis having an essentially tubular shape, the device comprising:

a mesh sleeve deformable by use of a balloon catheter and capable of radial expansion between a stable minimal-diameter configuration and a final after-expansion configuration that is also stable, the sleeve comprising a series of fixation barbs on each end adapted to engage a portion of the prosthesis, a portion of the body duct, or a combination thereof surrounding the sleeve, the fixation barbs aligned at regular intervals and radially encircling the sleeve,

wherein the fixation barbs have a hemostatic profile comprising a circular base section extending to a trihedral-shaped end portion.

11. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein the mesh sleeve comprises an openwork steel cylinder including diamond-shaped cutouts, the fixation barbs attached to the cylinder at each end at a plurality of intersections of sides of the diamond-shaped cutouts.

12. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein an intermediate portion of the sleeve also comprises a plurality of intermediate barbs.

13. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein, in expansion during fixation, a ratio of a final diameter of the sleeve to an initial diameter of the sleeve is greater than 2.

14. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the series of fixation barbs on each end of the sleeve are straight, and wherein the intermediate barbs are slightly curved and have points oriented toward one end or another end of the sleeve or randomly in any other direction.

15. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the intermediate barbs have an end portion inclined at an angle of between 0 degrees and 10 degrees.

16. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the fixation barbs of the ends of the sleeve are of a reduced height in relation to a height of the intermediate barbs.

17. (New) A connecting device adapted for end-to-end anastomosis of at least two body ducts through an intermediary prosthesis having extremities intubed in end portions of the ducts, the device comprising:

a sleeve fitted at each end of the prosthesis of the intubed portions of the ducts, the sleeve comprising:

a mesh cylinder capable of radial expansion between a stable minimal-diameter configuration and a final after-expansion configuration that is also stable, and

a series of fixation barbs on each end of the cylinder and adapted to engage a portion of the prosthesis, a portion of the body duct, or a combination thereof surrounding the sleeve, the fixation barbs aligned at regular intervals and radially encircling the cylinder, wherein the fixation barbs have a hemostatic profile comprising a circular base section extending to a trihedral-shaped end portion.

18. (New) A method for setting in place connecting devices adapted for end-to-end anastomosis of at least two body ducts through an intermediary prosthesis having extremities intubed in end portions of the ducts, comprising the steps of:

intubing a first end of the prosthesis in an extremity of a first body duct;

setting in place a first connecting device by introducing an inflatable balloon catheter into the prosthesis through an end of the prosthesis, the first connecting device comprising:

a mesh sleeve capable of radial expansion between a stable minimal-diameter configuration and a final after-expansion configuration that is also stable, and

a series of fixation barbs on each end of the sleeve and adapted to engage a portion of the prosthesis, a portion of the body duct, or a combination thereof surrounding the

sleeve, the fixation barbs aligned at regular intervals and radially encircling the sleeve, wherein the fixation barbs have a hemostatic profile comprising a circular base section extending to a trihedral-shaped end portion;

intubing a second end of the prosthesis in a second body duct; and

setting in place a second connecting device by the catheter introduced into the prosthesis through an orifice in the prosthesis that is subsequently re-closed, the second connecting device similar in composition to the first connecting device.

19. (New) The device according to claim 2, wherein the barbs are attached to the cylinder by soldering.

20. (New) The device according to claim 2, wherein the barbs are attached to the cylinder by gluing.

21. (New) The device according to claim 6, wherein the end portion of the intermediate barbs is inclined at an angle of about 5 degrees.